



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

habits of life and modes of thought, and in part, no doubt, to the fairness of his dealings with them. In spite of some traditions which imply that he was not always scrupulous about the manner of acquiring land-grants from them, there is no evidence that he ever defrauded them in a single transaction, or that his large property was amassed by dishonest means. To this praise, we think, he is fairly entitled; and such rare honesty could scarcely have failed to impress his semi-barbarous neighbors. The influence which he had thus acquired was in general wisely used, and was on many occasions of great advantage to the English Colonists. It must, however, always be a cause of shame and regret that he organized scalping parties among the Indians, and that he did not endeavor to soften the atrocities of Indian warfare.

When we turn from Johnson's management of Indian affairs to his military, political, and private life, we find little evidence of superior abilities, and nothing to show a high moral tone. As a soldier, his most important and creditable achievement was the capture of Fort Niagara; as a politician, he took no conspicuous part in the discussions which preceded the Revolution; and his domestic relations were disreputable, though not worse, perhaps, than those of many of his contemporaries. If he owed little to his early education, he doubtless owed much to his uncle's patronage; and the circumstances in which he was placed were those best suited to call out the strong points of his character.

9. — *Historical View of the American Revolution.* By GEORGE WASHINGTON GREENE, Author of "Historical Studies," "Biographical Studies," etc. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1865. 16mo. pp. 459.

MR. GREENE has long been known to our readers as a careful and accurate student of history, and as an able and scholarly writer; and in his life of his grandfather, in Sparks's Library of American Biography, he early gave evidence of the fidelity with which he had studied our Revolutionary annals. The volume now before us is a further proof of his ability to deal with that portion of our history, and bears in every part the marks of ripe and various culture. It comprises a course of twelve lectures read before the Lowell Institute, in this city, in the winter of 1863, and, with the exception of one of the lectures, apparently printed in the same form in which they were originally prepared. The subject is one that is well adapted to the purposes of the lecture-room and the requirements of a miscellaneous audience. Apart from the interest which it must always have for every American, there are

so many aspects under which it may be considered, and such opportunity for various treatment, without ever fatiguing the hearer with a minute narrative or perplexing him with an intricate course of reasoning, that no one of ordinary knowledge and tact can fail of making his lectures attractive. Of these advantages Mr. Greene has known how to avail himself; and he has produced a series of lectures which must not only have been listened to with pleasure and profit, but which in their published form ought to be received with a very high degree of favor. Without attempting to present our Revolutionary struggle under any new aspects, or to bring forward any new facts, he has judiciously chosen his special topics, and illustrated them by a copious learning and a wise selection of arguments, while the leading events in the history of the war are harmoniously grouped and concisely narrated. The style, if seldom fervid and eloquent, is always clear and idiomatic, and is for the most part compact and nervous.

The first lecture is devoted to an examination into the causes of the Revolution, the chief of which Mr. Greene finds in the nature of the colonial system itself; the gross ignorance as to the Colonies prevailing in England, even among the governing classes; and in the character of the political institutions, and especially of the municipal institutions, which the Colonists brought over with them. These causes, as he abundantly shows, would sooner or later have produced a violent separation of the Colonies from the mother country, "for the colonial system would have led to a collision of interests; English ignorance to ill-directed attempts at coercion; the sentiment of inalienable rights fostered by English institutions to firm and resolute resistance." But their effective operation was hastened by the concurrence of two other causes, — the pressure of taxation in England, and "the fact that, in her war upon the freedom of colonial industry England was at war with the spirit of her own political system."

Having thus analyzed the principal causes of the Revolution, Mr. Greene proceeds in his second lecture to glance at the various phases by which its progress was marked, tracing in rapid outline the history of the Colonies from the settlement of the country, through the successive stages of legislative oppression and popular remonstrance, down to the first act of armed resistance, and then, in a few well-considered paragraphs, exhibiting the various fortunes of the war, to the final consummation in the Peace of Paris.

In his third and fourth lectures he enters more directly on his subject, and treats of the Congress of the Revolution and of the State Governments. After a brief account of the various attempts at colonial union which preceded the war, he passes in review the various acts of

Congress down to the Declaration of Independence; and in the fourth lecture he describes the organization of the State governments, indicating the various features common to all of them.

The next two lectures deal with the Finances and Diplomacy of the Revolution, and are, on the whole, the ablest and most attractive of the course. The substance of them, however, has been so recently printed and so widely circulated in the pages of the *Atlantic Monthly*, that very little needs to be said of them here. It is sufficient to observe that Mr. Greene has given a very clear and admirable summary of the principal financial and diplomatic transactions, awarding praise where it is justly due, and pointing out the unfortunate blunders which were committed, and that nowhere else is there so good a view of this part of his subject in a form so compact and so easily accessible.

The next three lectures relate chiefly to military affairs, and treat of the army, the campaigns, and the foreign element of the Revolution. In them the reader will find a well-digested account of the organization of the army, and of the various acts of Congress affecting it, a satisfactory, though brief sketch of the different campaigns, and a merited recognition of the important services rendered by Lafayette, Steuben, and other foreign officers during the most important period of the war.

The tenth lecture is devoted to the Martyrs of the Revolution, and contains more or less extended notices of Otis, Quincy, Warren, Nathan Hale, and Isaac Hayne, and of the thousands of nameless victims of the prison-ships and other places of confinement for the prisoners of war.

The last two lectures are on the Literature of the Revolution, comprising specimens of both the prose and poetry to which it gave birth, with some account of the principal writers and a judicious estimate of the general character of their productions.

An Appendix of fifteen pages gives us a "Chronological Outline" of American history from the settlement of Canada to the year 1783, a "List of General Officers at the Commencement and Close of the Revolutionary War," several statistical tables of the number of troops furnished and the expenses of the war, and an Address to General Greene from the officers under his command, recommending retaliation for the injuries inflicted on Colonel Hayne.

From this rapid sketch of the topics discussed it is easy to see how judiciously Mr. Greene has laid out his plan; and his execution of it is not less praiseworthy. No one can read the volume, we think, without finding in it a pledge of the learning and candor with which our author will discharge his duties as editor of the long-promised selection from the writings of General Greene, and without feeling a deep regret that the failure of Congress to make the necessary appropriation should have hitherto prevented the publication of that important work.